



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on Proposed Actions to Modify Trip Limits for Atlantic Group Spanish mackerel in the Southern Zone. *Comments Due: May 11*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking comments on the proposed rule for Framework Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region (Framework Amendment 2).

Framework Amendment 2 would streamline the trip limit system for the Spanish mackerel Atlantic migratory group by eliminating the unlimited weekday Spanish mackerel trip limit in federal waters off the east coast of Florida.

Under this proposed rule, a trip limit of 3,500 pounds for the Spanish mackerel Southern Zone (South Carolina, Georgia, and eastern Florida) would be established. The trip limits are based on the adjusted quota, which is 250,000 pounds less than the Southern Zone commercial quota. When 75 percent of the adjusted Southern Zone quota (2,417,330 pounds) is met or projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 pounds. When 100 percent of the adjusted Southern Zone quota is met or projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 500 pounds until the end of the fishing year or until the Southern Zone commercial quota is met or projected to be met, at which time the commercial sector in the Southern Zone would be closed to harvest of Spanish mackerel. Under the proposed rule the year round trip limit of 3,500 pounds, north of the South Carolina/North Carolina boundary would not change.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has submitted Framework Amendment 2 to NOAA Fisheries for review and implementation. All comments specifically directed toward the proposed rule will be addressed in the final rule.

For more information on Framework Amendment 2, please visit the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Website at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/cm/2014/framework_am2/index.html

An electronic version of the amendment and proposed rule is available at that Web site or from the e-rulemaking portal, www.regulations.gov.

How to Submit Comments

You may submit comments by either of the following methods. Comments received through other means may not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:
www.regulations.gov

- Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2014-0136**.
- Select the appropriate title, and click "Submit a Comment." This will display the comment webform.
- Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail: Karla Gore, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.

All comments will be part of the public record, and generally posted for public viewing to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Anonymous comments will be accepted.